2. The following steps are being taken in the Supreme Court to expedite disposal of cases:—

(i) Matters involving common question of law are grouped together and listed in groups so that they can all be disposed of together.

(ii) In most of the matters, printing of the appeal record is dispensed with, which saves a lot of time and expense of the litigants. In criminal appeals, counsel for the appellant is required to file cyclostyled record to save time, which would otherwise be taken in getting the record printed, so that the matter could be heard early.

(iii) To save the Court's time, Hon'ble the Chief Justice is taking mentioning matters, which takes about one hour on each day, after the court hours.

(iv) Supreme Court Rules have been amended empowering Hon'ble Judge in Chambers and the Registrar to dispose of certain types of matters which were previously being listed in the court. This has been done to save the Court's time.

(v) Specialised benches are constituted by Hon'ble the Chief Justice and particular types of matters are assigned to such specialised benches for quick disposal.

(vi) Computer technology is soon going to be introduced in the Supreme Court, which is expected to help, reduce the backlog of cases considerably.

(vii) Recently Hon'ble the Chief Justice has directed that the counsel in each matter should file written arguments, if the arguments are to take more than five hours on each side. The oral arguments on each side are now restricted to five hours unless the Court feels that more time is to be given to the counsel in which case a maximam of ten hours are given for oral arguments to counsel on each side. The length of oral arguments by counsel of both the sides has thus been curtailed with a view to securing quick disposal of matters.

(viii) A Court Administrator-cum-Registrar General, who is a senior judicial officer, has been appointed very recently so that in conjunction with the present two Registrars there can be a re-organisation of the working of the Registry and improving its techniques and efficiency.

Approval of sardar sarovar and Narmada Canal Irrigation Projects

467. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sardar Sarover Project and Narmada Canal Irrigation Project are finally approved by all the concerned departments of the Government of India;

(b) whether it is a fact that on completion Narmada Project would give twenty five per cent return every year on total investment; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Gujarat Government have taken required precautions for the safeguards of the environment and the rehabilitation of the oustees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The benefit cost ratio of the project was worked out to be about 2

(c) The State Government have prepared an action plan for safeguarding the environment and rehabilitation of the oustees.

Per Hectare cost of Major Dams

468. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the per hectare cost of major dams completed and sanctioned during the last three years;

(b) the per hectare return on investment made and projected on above projects; and

(c) the All India percentage of irrigation and irrigation of Gujarat State at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) Information on completed projects are assessed only at the end of the Plan period. As such information on per hectare cost of major dams completed shall be known only at the end of the plan period. The Sarar Sarovar in Gujarat is the only major multi-purpose project sanctioned during last three years of which the cost per hectare is estimated at Rs. 25984 and likely return is estimated to be Rs. 6449 per hectare.

(c) As per latest available Land Use Statistic. (1984-85) (Provisional) issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, the percentage of Gross Irrigation Area to Cultivable Area is 21 per cent in Gujarat as against all India percentage of 29.

Vacancies of Judges in Gujarat High Court

469. SHRI RAMSINGH RATHWA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the vacancies of Judges in the Gujarat High Court;

(b) by when these are likely to be filled up;

(c) whether there is any timebound programme for filling up the vacancies of Judges in various High Courts of the country and the Supreme Court; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) whether any qualified S.C./S.T. as well as women candidates are being considered for the posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) As on 1-11-1988, there were 3 vacancies of permanent Judges and 3 vacancies of Additional Judges in the Gujarat High Court against the sanctioned strength of 18 permanent Judges and 3 Additional Judges.

(b) While Government make all possible efforts to ensure that vacancies of Judges are filled expeditiously, it is not possible to indicate any time by which these vacancies will be filled up.

(c) The Government reiterated the instructions prescribing the time schedule whereby a proposal should be initiated by the Chief Justice six months in advance of the anticipated occurrence of a vacancy in a High Court and referred to the concerned State Government; the State Government should finalise their recommendation and send it to the Central Government within one month. The Chief Justices of High Courts and Chief Ministers and Governors of States were *inter alia* requested to adhere to the above time schedule so that the vacancies are filled in expeditiously. Steps have been taken to fill the vacancies in Supreme Court and High Courts.

(d) Proposals for the appointment of some S.C./ S.T. and women candidates, as Judges of High Courts have been received.

Transfer of Technology from Japan

470. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Japan Radio Co. Ltd., a leading manufacturer of radio equipment has offered to transfer technology to the Punjab Wireless Systems Ltd. a State Government undertaking for production of TDMA and digital radio relay equipment which can be used for Rural communication thus linking the rural population of India with reliable communication network;

(b) whether the offer has since been accepted by Government; and

(c) if so, what are the terms of the offer?